Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 06700 311350Z

42

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ST-01 A-01 /074 W ----- 073573

R 311031Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5872

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, LA, TH

SUBJECT: REOPENING OF THAI/LAO FRONTIER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: BANGKOK 26965 (301039Z DEC 75), NOTAL

1. IN CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL AND CARRIED BY VOA AND OTHERS, ALL SORTS OF HIGH AUTHORITIES TOLD ME AT PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG'S NEW YEAR RECEPTION MORNING DECEMBER 31 THAT THAI WOULD OPEN FRONTIER ON JANUARY 1. AMONG THOSE WHO VERIFIED THE GOOD NEWS WERE THE THAI AMBASSADOR AND MILITARY ATTACHE AND THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTER AND ONE OF HIS SECRETARIES OF STATE, NOUPHANH SITHPHASAY. THE LAST-MENTIONED ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WERE ALREADY BEINGALLOWED TO CROSSS FREELY AS OF MORNING DECEMBER 31 NOT ONLY AT THA DEUA/NONG KHAI BUT ALSO AT SUCH TRADITIONAL POINTS AS VIENTIANE/SRI CHANG MAI AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LAO VILLAGES OF BAN HOM AND HAT DOK KEO ON THE RIVER

BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND NONG KHAI.

- 2. PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT'S LISTING OF CROSSING-POINTS (PARA 2, REFTEL) APPEARS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED. (THA) NA LAENG OR THANALENG IS SIMPLY THE LAO TERMINUS OF THE VEHICLE FERRY FROM NONG KHAI, ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS UPSTREAM FROM THE PASSENGER-FERRY TERMINUS AT THA DEUA.
- 3. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE THAI DECISION WILL IN FACT APPLY TO ALL OF NONG KHAI PROVINCE. WE SHALL REPORT IN A DAY OR TWO HOW THINGS ARE WORKING OUT AND WHETHER THE "COMPRADOR CAPITALISTS" RETURN TO VIENTIANE WITH ALL THEIR WARES. THE EMBASSY'S MOST PRESSING NEED AT THE MOMENT IS FOR BUTANE GAS FOR COOKING, AND WE HOPE THAT OUR REGULAR COMMERCIAL SUPPLIER WILL SOON BE BACK IN OPERATION.

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TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, LA, TH, (SOUPHANOUVONG)
To: STATE

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